



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/353,160	07/14/1999	MARKKU KORPI	99P7704US	3063

7590 09/13/2004

SIEMENS CORPORATION  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT  
186 WOOD AVENUE SOUTH  
ISELIN, NJ 08830

EXAMINER

ABELSON, RONALD B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2666

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2004

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/353,160

Applicant(s)

KORPI ET AL.

Examiner

Ronald Abelson

Art Unit

2666

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 4,6-10 and 12-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 July 1999 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Unit: 2666

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Art Unit: 2666

3. Claims 1-3, 5, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanter (WO 98/59467) in view of Bennefeld (US 6,519,249).

The applicant defines an endpoint as clients and gateways (pg. 1 lines 12-13).

Kanter teaches an H.323 endpoint (fig. 2 box 11, 11', pg. 3 lines 7-13).

Kanter teaches the H.323 endpoint comprises a H.323 controller (fig. 2 box 11, pg. 3 lines 7-13) configured to handle a call and control signaling (fig. 2 box 11, ARQ, destination alias address, destination call signaling address, source alias address, source call signaling address, desired bandwidth, desired call model, pg. 4 lines 1-11) during a media communication with another H.323 endpoint (fig. 2 box 11') via a gatekeeper (fig. 2 box 15, 15', pg. 3 line 13) or directly with another endpoint. The examiner maintains that the endpoint of Kanter contains a controller since it controls call signaling by providing the destination alias address, destination call signaling address, source alias address, source call signaling address, desired bandwidth, and desired call model.

Art Unit: 2666

Kanter teaches wherein the H.323 controller provides a communication domain identifier 'CDI' / EndPointIdentifier (pg. 7 lines 20-22) for address resolution during a media communication, said CDI permitting use of virtual domains (virtual private network, pg. 2 lines 4-5). Note, the EndPointIdentifier identifies the end point (fig. 2 box 11) with the gatekeeper (fig. 2 box 15) in the zone / domain (fig. 2 box 13, pg. 3 lines 13-14) that is accessed by the zone management means (fig. 2 box 17).

Regarding claims 1-3, although Kanter teaches using a virtual domain associated with a single gatekeeper based upon a CDI / EndPointIdentifier, the reference is silent on the CDI permitting use of multiple virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper based on the CDI or permitting use of virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers based on the CDI.

Regarding claims 1-3, Bennefeld like Kanter operates in a H.323 environment (col. 5 lines 14-15). Bennefeld teaches permitting use of domains associated with multiple gatekeepers (fig. 5A box 502, 504, 506, col. 9 lines 35-

Art Unit: 2666

52). Note, in Bennefeld (fig. 5A) each gatekeeper is assigned to a particular zone/domain.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having both Kanter and Bennefeld before him/her and with the teachings [a] as shown by Kanter, a method of routing calls in a H.323 environment, and [b] as shown by Bennefeld, a root gatekeeper distributing calls to a plurality of gatekeepers, to be motivated to modify the system of Kanter by replacing the single gatekeeper of Kanter (fig. 2 box 15) with the root gatekeeper (fig. 5A box 502) and a plurality of subsequent gatekeepers (fig. 5A box 504, 506). At registration, the root gatekeeper would assign one of the gatekeepers to handle the call. This would improve the system in cases where a single Gatekeeper is insufficient to service all the requests.

Regarding claims 2 and 3, in addition to the limitations previously listed, the H.323 controller is configured to use said CDI / EndPointIdentifier to determine a domain of a called party during an address resolution phase in a gatekeeper routed signaling mode. At

Art Unit: 2666

connection setup the end user (fig. 2 box 11) sends an ARQ signal to gatekeeper (fig. 2 box 15, pg. 4 lines 1-3). The gatekeeper (fig. 2 box 15) then sends a zone request comprising the Destination Alias Address of the receiving end user (fig. 2 box 11') to the zone management means (fig. 2 box 17, pg. 4 lines 13-15). The zone management means (fig. 2 box 17) responds with a zone confirmation (pg. 4 lines 17-18) to the gatekeeper (fig. 2 box 15, pg. 4 lines 17-18). Gatekeeper (fig. 2 box 15) sends an address confirmation signal to the end user (fig. 2 box 11, pg. 4 lines 28-29). Note, the domain of the called party is known by the zone management means since the end user of the called party (fig. 2 box 11') within zone / domain (fig. 2 box 13') has been registered with its gatekeeper (fig. 2 box 15') and the zone management means (fig. 2 box 17) via the CDI / EndPointIdentifier (pg. 7 lines 20-22).

Regarding claim 5, H.323 endpoint comprises a client terminal (Kanter: fig. 2 box 11) or gateway.

Regarding claim 11, Kanter teaches a telecommunications system (fig. 2).

Art Unit: 2666

Kanter teaches a packet-switched network (IP, pg. 1 lines 4-5).

Kanter teaches a plurality of endpoints coupled to the packet switched network (fig. 2 box 11, 11').

Kanter teaches a gatekeeper coupled to the packet switched network (fig. 2 box 15).

Although Kanter teaches the endpoints define a virtual domain associated with the gatekeeper (fig. 2 box 11, 13, 15, EndPointIdentifier, pg. 7 lines 20-22,), the reference is silent on predetermined numbers of said plurality of endpoints define multiple virtual domains associated with a same gatekeeper or virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers.

Bennefeld teaches permitting use of virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers (fig. 5A box 502, 504, 506, col. 9 lines 35-52). Note, in Bennefeld (fig. 5A) each gatekeeper is assigned to a particular zone/domain. Therefore, a plurality of endpoints (users connected to the root gatekeeper of a particular zone) is associated with a virtual domain associated with multiple gatekeepers.



Art Unit: 2666

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having both Kanter and Bennefeld before him/her and with the teachings [a] as shown by Kanter, a method of routing calls in a H.323 environment, and [b] as shown by Bennefeld, a root gatekeeper distributing calls to a plurality of gatekeepers, to be motivated to modify the system of Kanter by replacing the single gatekeeper of Kanter (fig. 2 box 15) with the root gatekeeper (fig. 5A box 502) and a plurality of subsequent gatekeepers (fig. 5A box 504, 506). At registration, the root gatekeeper would assign one of the gatekeepers to handle the call. This would improve the system since in cases where a single gatekeeper is insufficient to service all the requests.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claim 4, 6-9, and 12-24 allowed.

Regarding claim 4, 6-9, 17, 22, and 24, Kanter teaches an H.323 endpoint (fig. 2 box 11, pg. 3 lines 7-13).

Art Unit: 2666

Kanter teaches the H.323 endpoint comprises a H.323 controller (fig. 2 box 11, pg. 3 lines 7-13) configured to handle a call and control signaling (fig. 2 box 11, ARQ, destination alias address, destination call signaling address, source alias address, source call signaling address, desired bandwidth, desired call model, pg. 4 lines 1-11) during a media communication with another H.323 endpoint (fig. 2 box 11') via a gatekeeper (fig. 2 box 15, 15', pg. 3 line 13) or directly with another endpoint. The examiner maintains that the endpoint of Kanter is a controller since it controls call signaling by providing the destination alias address, destination call signaling address, source alias address, source call signaling address, desired bandwidth, and desired call model.

Kanter teaches wherein the H.323 controller provides a communication domain identifier 'CDI' / EndPointIdentifier (pg. 7 lines 20-22) for address resolution during a media communication, said CDI permitting use of virtual domains (virtual private network, pg. 2 lines 4-5). Note, the EndPointIdentifier identifies the end point (fig. 2 box 11) with the gatekeeper (fig. 2 box 15) in the zone / domain (fig. 2 box 13, pg. 3 lines 13-14) that is accessed by the zone management means (fig. 2 box 17).

Art Unit: 2666

Bennefeld teaches, in a H.323 environment, permitting use of virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers based on the CDI (fig. 4B, col. 8 lines 48-60). Note, based on the CDI / destination alias address, a root gatekeeper (fig. 4B box 402) will receive a call. The root gatekeeper will then route the call to one of the gatekeepers (fig. 4B box 404, 406, 408). See fig. 5A where different root gatekeepers handle different zones.

Regarding claims 4, 9, 23, and 24, nothing in the prior art of the record teaches or fairly suggests wherein the H.323 controller is configured to use said CDI to determine a domain of one or more parties during execution of one or more domain-restricted functions in view of the prior art teachings of the combination of Kanter and Bennefeld. See applicant domain-restricted (pg. 8 lines 3-5, pg. 9 lines 2-3, pg. 10 lines 31-32).

Regarding claims 6, 7, 17, 22, although the controller (fig. 2 box 11, 11') records its own association with its gatekeeper and domain, nothing in the prior art of reference teaches or fairly suggests the controller stores a database identifying multiple virtual domains associated

Art Unit: 2666

with a single gatekeeper or a virtual domain associated with multiple gatekeepers. Note, the database of Kanter storing the association of virtual domains associated with gatekeepers is located at the zone management means (fig. 2 box 17) and not at the controllers (fig. 2 box 11, 11'). The controller only stores its association with its virtual domain and gatekeeper. Furthermore, regarding claim 22, nothing in the reference teaches or suggests accessing the database to determine if said called party is associated with a local extension.

Regarding claim 8, nothing in the prior art of the record teaches or fairly suggests wherein the controller is configured to access the database for a virtual domain identifier in a direct signaling mode. See applicant (pg. 4 lines 17-21). In contrast, Kanter only teaches a gatekeeper routed mode.

Regarding claims 12, 14, and 16, Kanter teaches a telecommunications system (fig. 2).

Kanter teaches a packet-switched network (IP, pg. 1 lines 4-5).

Art Unit: 2666

Kanter teaches a plurality of endpoints coupled to the packet switched network (fig. 2 box 11).

Kanter teaches a gatekeeper coupled to the packet switched network (fig. 2 box 15).

Bennefeld teaches permitting use of virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers (fig. 5A, col. 9 lines 35-52). Note, in Bennefeld (fig. 5A) each gatekeeper is assigned to a particular zone/domain. Therefore, a call will be routed to an endpoint based upon the particular zone/domain. Thus, the endpoint in Bennefeld is associated with a particular virtual domain.

However, nothing in the prior art of the record teaches or fairly suggests the endpoints include communication domain identification controllers for resolving associated virtual domains during call setup.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed 5/5/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding claims 1-3 and 11, the applicant argues that the amended claims should be allowed since the language calls for 'multiple

Art Unit: 2666

virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper' (pg. 10 last paragraph). However, the claims state, see claim 1, said communication domain identifier permitting use of multiple virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper based on said communication domain identifier or permitting use of virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers based on said communication domain identifier". In the prior office action, the examiner addresses the 'virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper based on said communication domain identifier' portion of the 'or clause'. The applicant has amended to include multiple virtual domains. In response, the examiner has addressed the "permitting use of virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers based on said communication domain identifier" portion of the 'or clause' in the current office action. Therefore, the examiner maintains that all limitations of amended independent claims 1-3 and 11 have been addressed.

#### **Conclusion**

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 2666

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald Abelson whose telephone number is (703) 306-5622. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on (703) 308-5463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2666

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*RA*  
Ronald Abelson  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2666

\*\*\*

7/20/04

*Seema S. Rao*  
SEEMA S. RAO 7/26/04  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600